# Unraveling The Legends & The History okshelf Lost Mine With The Iron Door Lost Mission & Lost City Cañada del Oro – Canyon of Gold Tucson Gold Rush Treasures Of The Santa Catalina Legends Mountains By Robert E. Zucker History & Collaborated with William "Flint" Carte Entertainment SARCHING FOR ARECON BURIED TREASURES ENTERTAINMENT (OLO)(OLO)(DEL)(DEL) intertaining Tueson Two Year Odyssey nt to Pixels ne I: 1950s-1985 Traveling

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## Robert E. Zucker

- "Treasures of the Santa Catalina Mountains" "Entertaining Tucson Across the Decades"
- "Kabbalah's Secret Circles" "Twilight of Consciousness"
- "Traveling Show" and "Print to Pixels"

Robert, a Tucson native, is publisher of Entertainment Magazine, a former instructor at the University of Arizona, Pima Community College, and has been publishing newspapers since 1978. See videos at http://www.youtube. com/c/BobZucker

#### William "Flint" Carter

"Canyon of Gold, Buffalo Bill Cody & the Legendary Iron Door Mine Treasure" "Treasures of the Santa Catalinas"

Flint has prospected the Santa Catalina Mountains for more than four decades and continues to hold active mining claims in the mountains. Flint, a sophisticated primitive artist, fabricates jewelry and art using the only local source of gold and silver from the Santa Catalinas, marketed as Cody Stone.

## **Ronald Ouinn**

"Searching for Arizona's Buried Treasures" "Mysterious Disappearances"

Ron, a prolific writer of treasure hunting and paranormal stories for decades, has prospected the mountains near Tubac and discovered 82 pounds of Spanish gold bullion. In his book, he reveals legends and his personal treasure hunt expeditions. Ron passed away on August 30,

Arizona Bookshelf features three local Tucson, Arizona authors

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Publisher: Robert Zucker Books printed by CreateSpace, an Amazon.com company Arizona Bookshelf printed by Herald/Review Media Distribution: Carolyn & James Barnett ISBN-10:1-939050-19-7 ISBN-13:978-1-939050-19-9



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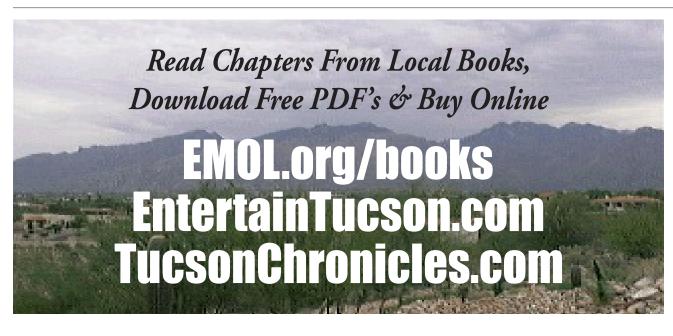
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Front cover photograph: The Romero Ruin at the Catalina State Park, part of the history and legends of the Santa Catalina Mountains. Book covers are courtesy of BZB Publishing. Centerfold: "Entertaining Tucson Across the Decades" photographs are copyright of the Entertainment Magazine and Newsreal





# The Lost Treasures of the Santa Catalina Mountains

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ome of the greatest treasures of the Wild West are hidden in the Santa Catalina Mountains north of Tucson, Arizona. These stoic mountains are shrouded in mystery and immersed in rich legends.

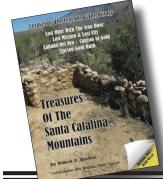
The ancient stone ruins preserved in Catalina State Park, early Spanish placer mining sites in the Cañada del Oro (the Canyon of Gold), and the legend of a lost Spanish mine and lost Spanish mission in the Santa Catalinas fuels speculation about the riches that may be left behind.

The lost "Iron Door Mine" is the most famous legend of the Santa Catalina Mountains. It has lured prospectors and treasure hunters for hundreds of years. The evidence of Spanish and Mexican clandestine mining paved the way for American exploitation of the Catalinas in search of the Mine with the Iron Door and the canyon's minerals, despite deadly threats from Apache Indians.

The Cañada del Oro, once a mighty river flowing out the Catalinas, has been a proven source of gold. It earned its name from the deposits of quartz-bearing gold encased along the canyon walls.

The Tucson Gold Rush of the late 1800s brought prospectors by the thousands. Some of Tucson's most prominent pioneer businessmen, politicians, and lawmen were well known miners and investors. They dug along the famed Canyon of Gold and discovered naturally formed quartz with veins of gold, copper and silver. Miners staked their homes around the newly founded town of Oracle, tucked away on the northern edge of the Santa Catalinas.

Just over a hundred years ago, iconic world entertainer William "Buffalo Bill" Cody spent his last



TREASURES OF THE SANTA **CATALINA MOUNTAINS"** By Robert E. Zucker with Flint Carter

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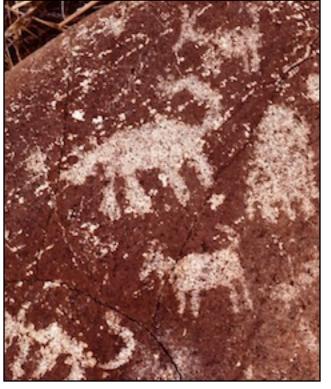
decades as an investor in a mining operation near Oracle at Campo Bonito. The mines provided tungsten for Thomas Edison's light bulb filaments, as well as some gold and other minerals. The nearby Silverbelle Mine produced some of the best gold deposits in the Catalinas. Cody had an avid interest in the search for the Lost Escalante Mine- also known as the Iron Door Mine. The legend became the theme of a novel with the same name by Harold Belle Wright in 1923, and was the theme of several movies during the 1920s and

One clue to the location of the lost mine can be found in the words of Father Eusebio Kino in 1702-near the new missions, he wrote, there are also "good mining camps of very rich silver ore." The lost Santa Catalina Mission remains may be somewhere near the Iron Door mine. One example is the San Xavier del Bac Mission and its nearby mines. Early Spanish-American history, including Kino's journal, records a Spanish visita named Santa Catalina, north of Tucson.

Throughout the entire Santa Catalina Mountain range deposits of precious minerals remain hidden. But, it is the gold that attracts the most attention. Modern prospectors still hunch over the winding creeks after a rain in hopes to pan some nuggets or loose flakes that still flow down the Cañada del Oro, while other adventurers search for the elusive Iron Door Mine.



The remains of this fireplace and cement slab are some of the few landmarks left from the glory days of mining in the Santa Catalina Mountains, located at the old Campo Bonito mining camp and tucked away behind Oracle, Arizona. William "Buffalo Bill" Cody was an investor in the mine during the early 20th century. Cody is honored annually on the 3rd weekend in February to celebrate his birthday with a "Cody Days in Oracle" event.



These ancient Indian petrogylphs found in the Santa Catalina Mountains near the Cañada del Oro are now missing from their original location. Photo courtesy of Flint Carter, c. 1980s.

#### Charlie Brown And The Iron Door Mine

(July 1899 - Tucson, A.T.) Downtown Congress Hall Saloon owner Charles O. Brown was a staunch believer in the Iron Door Mine legend. He reportedly spent \$60,000 in mining operations, made repeated trips into the mountains, and kept a large mineral cabinet on display at his saloon. Read his story on page 177 in "Treasures of the Santa Catalina

#### **Treasures Discovered in Catalinas**

(Circa 1915 - Tucson, A.T.) A discovery of several Jesuit treasure chests and jewels in the Catalinas was found in a cave near Apache Peak south of Old Hat District by local rancher Sistro Castro in 1915. An Oracle couple also told a story about the father and the uncle of Ernesto Castro (Severiano) who discovered a large nugget of gold plus numerous grains. They sold the nugget for \$45,000. Read more on page 319 in "Treasures of the Santa Catalina Mountains."

#### McKee's Seek The Iron Door Mine

(Dec. 1932 - Tucson, AZ) Brothers Charles and Harry McKee sought the "fabulous Escalante Mine, or more properly, the Iron Door Mine." An old Indian guide showed them an old mine in the Catalinas. Word got back to Tucson that they found the fabled mine. Charles spent the rest of his life working claims in the Catalinas. See page 186 in "Treasures of the Santa Catalina Mountains."



(left) Tucson native Linda

Ronstadt gained national

Photo by Aaron Rapoport,

popularity in the 1960s.

1982, Asylum Records.

See Volume 1, page 42

left) In 1948, Dean Armstrong (left side) formed his first group. a house band for the **Open Door Night Club** at a popular dance hall and nightclub on Benson Highway. Photo with Billy Burkes (right), by Bill Dovle, 1992, See Volume 1, page 44 of "Entertaining Tucson Across the Decades.

left) Rex Allen is one of only a handful of silver screen cowboys who actually came from a cattle ranching family. Rex hailed from Willcox. Photo of Rex Allen on Koko the Wonder Horse, courtesy of Rex Allen. See interview in Volume 1, page 20 of "Entertaining Tucson Across the Decades."





Some of many local Tucson bands of the 1960s included the Five Of Us, the Grodes, the Occasionals, the Bassmen, the Sot Weed Factor, the Lewallen Brothers and (above) Dearly Beloved. Photo: Newsreal. See Volume 1, "Entertaining Tucson Across the Decades," page 26.

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(above) The Lewallen Brothers actually are brothers, with the exception of father, Cal Lewallen. founder and bassist. These Tucson natives played all over the city from the late 1950s through 1980s. Photo, 1989. See Volume 1, "Entertaining Tucson Across the Decades," page 46.

The Mountain Newsreal, Tucson's monthly newspaper of popular culture, was first published in May 1974 by Jonathan L. The tabloid, later known as the Newsreal, published through October 1985.

The **Entertainment** *Magazine* published monthly beginning in April 1985 (published as The Magazine since 1981) and became one of the first Arizona newspapers online at EMOL.org (Entertainment Magazine On Line) in January 1995.

(left) '70s rock and roller,

Billy Templeton moved

to Tucson, Arizona

from Chattanooga,

Tennessee. From

his base in Tucson.

Templeton began to

perform professionally

for any event he could

find. He is best known

for doing an incredible

Show." See Volume 1,

page 66.

"Tribute to **Elvis** Vegas

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left) The 1970s standout was the Bob Meighan Band with members (r-I): Bob Meighan, Rodney Bryce, Richard Howard, Milt Miller and Dick Furlow. The Dancer' was Meighan's first release, recorded at Lee Furr's Studio. February 8, 1985, Newsreal. See Volume 1, page 56.

Online 1995

(right) Neon Prophet, one of Tucson's longest playing Reggae bands. Photo 1991. See Volume 3, page 63 of "Entertaining Tucson Across the

> (right) Statesboro Blues Band (l-r) Patrick McAndrew. Bruce Tost, Brooks Keenan, George Howard, and Bob Benedon, The Magazine, January, 1984.

Shep Cooke, Richard Gomez Skip McWilliams, Clay Brown and Richard Tompkins. 1991 "Entertaining Tucson Across the Decades.'

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roll, too. Formed in

1977, they became

satirical music when the

Stumble Inn was called

their home. Photo from

Wagon Track Records, 1990. See Volume 1, page 60 and Volume 3,

popular for their

(above) Giant Sandworms. See interview Volume 1, page 182, of (left) Chuck Wagon & the Wheels were a premier Country Western band, but every fan knows they

"Entertaining Tucson Across the Decades. could knock out some pretty mean rock and

5, 2009. See interviews with Sam and Bobby in Vol. 2 & 3 of "Entertaining Tucson Across the Decades." (left) The Marshmallow Overcoat, Skyclad Records/Get Hip

Nadine & the

Records. From "Beverly Pepper, CD: 1986-1990." See Volume 2, page 177, Volume 3, page 77.

left) Bobby Taylor, the son of

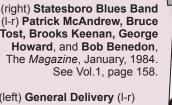
bluesman Sam Taylor, passed away

July 21, 1997. Sam died on January

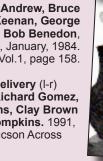
MoPhonics (I-r) Dan Sorenson, Cathy Zavala, Lisa McCallion, Bob Casler, Neil McCallion and

Nancy McCallion. September 1986. See Volume 1 of Entertaining Tucson Across the Decades," page 224.

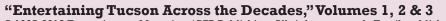






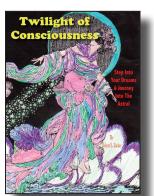






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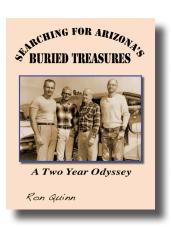
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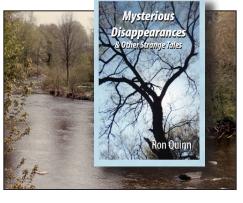
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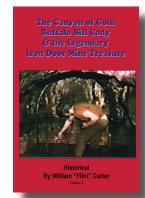
here are many strange stories that just cannot be explained. People have always been mysteriously disappearing without explanation.

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# **Prospecting the Santa Catalinas**

or more than forty years, Flint Carter has prospected and mined the Santa Catalina Mountains. He has held title to two of the largest operating mines on Mt. Lemmon, and believes he has found the original Iron Door Mine.

The Canyon of Gold, better known as Cañada del Oro, has been mined for generations for its silver, copper and gold. Even Buffalo Bill Cody, the 19th Century Wild West entertainer, searched for the Catalina's precious minerals and sought after the legendary Iron Door Mine. Cody mined



"THE CANYON OF GOLD. **BUFFALO BILL** CODY & THE LEGENDARY **IRON DOOR MINE** TREASURE" By Flint Carter

978- 939050-12-0 228 pages Paperback \$20.00 the Catalinas and hit the fabulous vein of the mine with the Iron Door in 1903.

Flint reveals some of the Catalina Mountains secrets that he uncovered during his years extracting jewelry-grade stones from the mountain's canyons called Cody Stone. He has produced jewelry, paintings and sculptures all from Tucson's Canyon of Gold.

A remote cabin in the Catalinas, called One Park Place, has been managed and rebuilt by Flint over the decades. It still stands today as a rest stop for deep terrain hikers. His book includes over a decade of comments left by visitors to the remote Mt. Lemmon cabin.

Flint is the founder of Cody Days, an event held annually in Oracle to celebrate Buffalo Bill Cody's birthday. A book will be released on Cody Days with leather binding, with or with out Cody Stone sterling silver inserts, and numbered commemorative coins. For advance placements for early numbers, call

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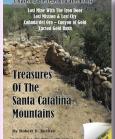
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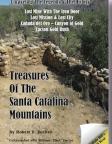
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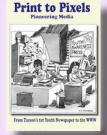
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